

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ATHENS 02124 081742Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-15 COME-00 DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-02 SAL-01 CG-00
DLOS-06 OES-06 OC-06 CCO-00 ST-01 A-01 OPR-02 AID-05
SIL-01 LAB-04 IO-13 OMB-01 /136 W
-----081938Z 074747 /43

R 081655Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9412
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
US DESPATCH AGENT BALTIMORE
US DESPATCH AGENT MIAMI
US DESPATCH AGENT NEW YORK
US DESPATCH AGENT SAN FRANCISCO

UNCLAS ATHENS 2124

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, EGEN, GR
SUBJECT: LABOR DISPUTE CONGESTS PORT OF PIRAEUS

REF: ATHENS 1053 (NOTAL)

1. LONGSHOREMEN AT THE PORT OF PIRAEUS HAVE BEEN REFUSING
TO WORK OVERTIME SINCE FEBRUARY 6 AND HELD A 48-HOUR STRIKE
MARCH 4-5 WHICH HAVE CAUSED THE HARBOR TO BECOME SERIOUSLY
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ATHENS 02124 081742Z

CONGESTED, WITH RESULTING DELAYS IN THE TRANSFER OF CARGO.
A 15 PERCENT SURCHARGE ON ZURICH CONFERENCE CARGO MOVING
THROUGH PIRAEUS TO REIMBURSE CARRIERS FOR SHIPS DELAYED IN
PORT APPEARS IMMINENT AND THE AMATILE CONFERENCE HAS
THREATENED A 30 PERCENT SURCHARGE.

2. ONE SHIP CARRYING CARGO CONSIGNMENT TO THE EMBASSY WAS

DELAYED TWO EXTRA DAYS IN PORT. ANOTHER SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE MARCH 5 WAS DIVERTED TO TURKEY AND WILL NOT RETURN UNTIL MARCH 10. ON MARCH 8, FORTY-NINE SHIPS WERE IN PIRAEUS HARBOR WITH ANOTHER FORTY-FIVE ANCHORED OUTSIDE

3. THE LONGSHOREMEN'S REFUSAL TO WORK OVERTIME AND THE TWO-DAY STRIKE ARE TO BACK UP THEIR DEMANDS FOR WAGE AND FRINGE BENEFIT INCREASES. THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE LONGHOREMEN'S FEDERATION TOLD THE EMBASSY MARCH 8 THAT IN ITS CURRENT NEGOTIATING PACKAGE THE UNION IS SEEKING VARIOUS INCREASES AMOUNTING TO APPROXIMATELY THIRTY PERCENT. THE PIRAEUS PORT AUTHORITY'S INITIAL OFFER WAS A TWO-STEP FIFTEEN PERCENT WAGE INCREASE, BUT NO INCREASES IN FRINGE BENEFITS, IN LINE WITH GOVERNMENT WAGE POLICY SET BY THE NATIONAL GENERAL COLLECTIVE LABOR AGREEMENT SIGNED JANUARY 26 (REFTEL). NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONTINUING AND DELAYS IN THE TRANSFER OF CARGO CAN BE EXPECTED UNTIL THE DISPUTE IS SETTLED

4. IF THE PORT CONGESTION CONTINUES, THERE WILL BE SOME DETRIMENTAL IMPLICATIONS FOR DOMESTIC ECONOMIC CONDITIONS AND FOR THE BALANCE OF PAYMENTS. FREIGHT SURCHARGES WILL BE INFLATIONARY, INCREASING PRICES OF BOTH EXPORTS AND IMPORTS. MOREOVER THE FLOW OF TRADE WILL BE AFFECTED, POSSIBLY CAUSING SHORTAGES, INTERRUPTING DOMESTIC PRODUCTION SCHEDULES, OR RESULTING IN FAILURE TO FULFILL EXPORT CONTRACTS.

MILLS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PORT CONGESTION, LONGSHOREMEN, LABOR DISPUTES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977ATHENS02124
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770079-1235
Format: TEL
From: ATHENS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770384/aaaacvva.tel
Line Count: 88
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 643c81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 ATHENS 1053
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3182376
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR DISPUTE CONGESTS PORT OF PIRAEUS
TAGS: ELAB, EGEN, GR
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/643c81bc-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009